

Commerce Committees in making sure the FAA has the resources and tools it needs to continue making our aviation system the safest in the world. It is crucial we work together to provide the FAA with the certainty it needs in these challenging times for the aviation sector. This will not only benefit the FAA but the industry generally and the many millions of Americans it serves each year.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for a short-term extension of FAA collection, expenditure authority, and Airport Improvement Program, or AIP, contract authority through June 30, 2008.

The previous extension was scheduled to expire on February 29, 2008. Short of congressional action, hundreds of airports across the Nation were at risk of losing an entire construction season and hindering much needed improvements to our aviation system. In addition, the FAA was at risk of not being able to fund this year's planned critical investments in the Next Generation Air Traffic Control System, NEXTGEN. Now, because of our efforts, those improvements can continue as planned.

While I am pleased with our work today, I am disappointed we could not provide more stability in the system by completing a longer term extension through September 30, 2008, which is the end of the fiscal year.

As legislators, it is our responsibility to create stability and predictability in our infrastructure system. We cannot allow our lack of action to disturb the modernization efforts and the flow of funds to our aviation system.

Thankfully, the extension we passed today will provide immediate funding and spending authority as well as a valuable cushion for the Senate to work on the overarching FAA reauthorization bill.

I am looking forward to working with my friend and distinguished colleague Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER to complete a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill. We have several challenges ahead of us, and we will attempt to come together in a bipartisan way to meet those challenges. The extension we passed today is just the first step in what will be a very important year for aviation policy.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5270) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAMING OF PITTSBURGH

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 452, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 452) commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Naming of Pittsburgh as the culmination of the Forbes Campaign across Pennsylvania and the significance this event played in the making of America, in the settlement of the continent, and in spreading the ideals of freedom and democracy throughout the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 452) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 452

Whereas the Forks of the Ohio at today's Pittsburgh should forever be remembered as the place where an army of British and Colonial soldiers took control of Fort Duquesne from the French, a turning point in the French and Indian War, the first world war; Whereas the British victory in the French and Indian War sowed the seeds of Colonial discontent with British rule, beginning the chain of events that led to the American Revolution;

Whereas the British Army under the leadership of General John Forbes built the first road across the Allegheny Mountains, thus securing the Gateway to the West for British and later American settlement;

Whereas General Forbes and Colonel George Washington named the location Pittsburgh, in honor of William Pitt the Elder;

Whereas Fort Pitt provided a safe haven for peoples from around the world to follow in Forbes' and Washington's footsteps to travel to Pittsburgh to settle the continent and to pioneer advancements in industry, science, technology, education, the environment, and the arts;

Whereas Pittsburgh went on to become the Crucible of the Industrial Revolution, producing glass, steel, and aluminum that have a place in every skyline in the United States, and perfecting the technologies that made it possible for alternating current to illuminate the Nation;

Whereas the people of the Pittsburgh region pioneered modern philanthropy, implemented the first smoke control regulation, developed the polio vaccine, and conquered rejection of transplanted organs, improving countless lives worldwide;

Whereas Pittsburgh is today a global leader in such emerging fields as materials science, regenerative medicine, nanotechnology, electro-optics, robotics, data storage, computer science, and commercial nuclear power;

Whereas Pittsburgh is home to more than 100 multi-billion dollar global corporations that improve the lives of people around the world;

Whereas Pittsburgh provides a high quality of life to its residents, offering unparalleled arts and cultural opportunities for a city of its size;

Whereas, in 2007 and in 1985, Pittsburgh was named America's Most Livable City, the

only city in the United States to earn that honor twice;

Whereas Pittsburgh is commemorating its naming and its impact on the world with Pittsburgh 250, a year-long celebration involving communities in 14 Pennsylvania counties, parts of 7 States, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas Pittsburgh 250 has connected Washington, DC to Pittsburgh by supporting the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail, the longest hiking and biking trail east of the Mississippi and the most accessible great trail experience in the world, providing an important new outdoor recreational asset to the people of the Mid-Atlantic United States; and

Whereas Pittsburgh has accomplished all of these things with an unparalleled history of public and private partnership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 250th anniversary of the Naming of Pittsburgh, known as a significant event in United States history;

(2) recognizes that Pittsburgh 250 is organizing the commemoration on behalf of 14 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania;

(3) encourages participation for all Americans to learn how the Forbes Campaign, the opening of the Gateway to the West, the industrialization of America, and the environmental transformation of Pittsburgh helped to make America; and

(4) commends the contributions of those who have followed trails to Pittsburgh for 250 years to shape the world we live in and the Nation we have become.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 453, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 453) recognizing February 20, 2008, as the 100th anniversary of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 453) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 453

Whereas the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School opened its doors for classes on February 20, 1908, with 3 instructors and 27 students;

Whereas the school became a senior college for men, the first in south Georgia, in 1929;

Whereas the school changed its name in 1933 to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in honor of a Georgia signer of the Constitution of the United States and the first president of the University of Georgia;

Whereas the college recorded its all-time highest enrollment during the 2007 fall semester with 3,665 students from 154 Georgia counties, 12 other States, and 9 countries;